

# Ethiopia Calling

The newsletter of *Partners in the Horn of Africa*

***Partners in the Horn of Africa*** is a registered Canadian charity working in Ethiopia. *Partners* has two distinct features:

- Donations to *Partners* are not used for administration. Our directors work voluntarily and cover all operating costs. 100% of donations go directly into projects.
- All *Partners'* projects have an Ethiopian "partner", usually a village or Ethiopian aid organization that contributes 15-20% of the project cost—usually in the form of labour.



*Samuel with new braces & crutches*

## Working with the Physically Handicapped

### A little goes a long way

One of the most rewarding things about aid work in Ethiopia comes with the realization of how far the Canadian dollar goes in this very poor country. Much can be accomplished with modest amounts. *Partners'* project rehabilitating polio victims at Butajira in rural Ethiopia is a good example.

Our "partner" in this project, The Garbet Ledekuman Clinic, rehabilitates polio victims like Samuel (picture above). Polio victims in sub-Saharan Africa are usually bedridden or forced to crawl in order to move about. They have little or no prospect of education, advancement or employment. The clinic at Butajira changes that.

Seriously affected polio victims undergo corrective surgery which stretches or transplants tendons to prepare atrophied legs for braces. Then a physiotherapist provides mobility training and new

### Special points of interest:

- *Partners'* projects with the Physically Handicapped
- *Partners'* projects for 2005

### A little goes a long way

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braces and/or crutches which are manufactured at the clinic. Within weeks kids like Samuel return to their villages walking tall.

This year *Partners'* project at Butajira will rehabilitate 400 polio victims, operating on approximately 100 children. Another 300 kids whose muscles are not as seriously atrophied will proceed directly to physiotherapy and be outfitted with braces or crutches. The cost to *Partners*, including identifying and getting the kids to the clinic, surgery, physiotherapy, the manufacturing of crutches and braces and funding them while they are there, works out to \$55.00 per child!! A small price to pay for changing the quality of their lives.

### The Visually Impaired

We have another example of how a modest sum can transform the life of an Ethiopian child.

Deribe is a young and visually challenged boy. He came to *Partners'* attention when we were building a small flour mill in a remote area. Like many African children, Deribe had a serious vision problem with no prospect for treatment. Deribe finished 5th in his class of 100 at elementary school even though he couldn't see beyond two meters and was certainly unable to read a blackboard. He is obviously a clever boy.

*Partners* brought Deribe and Tessfaye, a sighted friend to assist him in his travel, to Addis Abba for a medical assessment. He was diagnosed as profoundly myopic (-17) and then fitted with very strong eyeglasses. At the age of 17 Deribe was suddenly able to "see" the world around him for the first time. The picture shows Deribe with a smile creeping on to his face minutes after he put on his new glasses at the eye clinic. This fall he will start high school. If he was able to finish near the top of his class when he couldn't see the blackboard, he will likely end up in university! Again, a life transforming intervention. Deribe's eyeglasses cost \$8 and *Partners* spent another \$75 on his transportation, accommodations and eye examination.



**Deribe with his new glasses**

## Give a little—Give a lot

### **Partners' work resonates with teenager, Lauren Holmes...**

Partners received this inspiring letter just before Christmas. We wanted to share it with you.

*My name is Lauren Holmes and I am 15 years old. The other day when my parents asked me what I wanted for Christmas, I said "a kid". By that I meant I wanted to support a child in a third world country.*

*I know there are quite a few programs that one can send money to, but as far as I know all of these are not volunteer and 100% of my money would not go to helping a child. My mom works (in a law office) and she is the one who told me about Partners in the Horn of Africa. I went to your website and I really like how your organization is made up of volunteers. My mom and dad have agreed to send what money they would have spent on presents for me to the Partners in the Horn of Africa.*

*I want to do this because I feel that if children in other places have nothing, I have no right to take more than I need. I would really like to someday work in a third world country helping the less fortunate. By sending this money I hope that one or more persons will be able to have food, clothing and the proper medical attention they deserve. It is my sincere wish to help someone less fortunate....*

### **Partners' Projects for 2005**

Partners is taking on 15 new projects this year. Among them:

1. Installing wells to provide clean water (only 24% of Ethiopians have access to clean water).
2. A pilot project to manufacture and distribute 1,800 fuel saving ovens to rural households. The ovens will be made locally from cement in six pieces which are joined together like a jigsaw puzzle. The ovens require only a fraction of the wood now used in open fires and address two major problems in Ethiopia— deforestation and the excessive amounts of time spent by women collecting firewood.



**One of 8 new Partners' wells in a drought stricken area**

## Partners' Projects for 2005

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3. Two Micro Financing projects for unemployed and under employed women in rural areas.
4. Education and skills training for older HIV orphans and young, destitute women from rural areas.
5. Group Homes and Fostering programs for younger HIV orphans.
6. Elementary and High School construction and renovation.



*Partners* is having an impact in the Horn of Africa. The problems are immense but your donations do make a difference in the lives of many Ethiopians. **On their behalf we thank you.**

At the request of several of our donors we have now set up a system for pre-authorized donations on a regular basis. If you would prefer to donate that way, we have enclosed an authorization form which you can fill in and return to us. Tax receipts for direct debits are sent out in December each year.



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*Partners* is a recognized Canadian charity and issues tax receipts for all donations.

***Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. ~ Margaret Mead ~***

This newsletter is published courtesy of the United Food & Commercial Workers  
Union, Local 1518